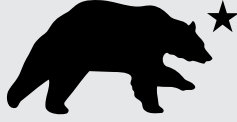


O E S
CALIFORNIA



**Governor's Office of
Emergency Services**

Haz Mat Update Report

Official Newsletter for California State-Certified Hazmat Instructors

September 2000

California Specialized Training Institute

P. O. Box 8123, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93403-8123 (805) 549-3344



Annual Conference

It's Official! The return of the "Outreach Instructor Conference" scheduled for December 14, 2000, at CSTI. It's free! Like past conferences, it offers you an opportunity to find out what's new, network with other instructors and pick-up new "2000" CSTI Haz Mat instructor materials (in free CD format). There will also be interesting workshops on timely training topics, to say nothing of "Valuable" prizes presented to lucky ticket holders at the end of the conference. For more details, see the attached flyer. If you are interested, sign up now via the flyer application (don't forget to use the order form for materials, so we have enough on hand when you come to pick them up. No multiple pick-ups allowed).

New Courses

PowerPoint for Hazmat Trainers

CSTI has long been on the cutting edge of emergency management training and their latest offering maintains that position. A mere 12 years after Microsoft released the program *PowerPoint* CSTI has developed a course to train hazmat instructors to use that valuable piece of software.

The first offering of this class will be February 21 and the second class will take place on June 22. Both classes will be at CSTI in our state-of-the-art computer lab.

Each class will be 100% hands-on with a computer for each class participant using Windows 98™ and Office 2000™. We will cover the following topics: Effective Presentation Design, Use of Multimedia and Customizing Existing Design Elements. Class participants will have the opportunity to develop presentations for use in their training.

Explosives Awareness

This course is designed to provide hazmat team members with the skills needed to recognize explosive devices. The training will make extensive use of field exercises to give participants practice in recognizing explosive devices during a hazmat entry. We will offer one of these classes on May 30-31, 2001 at CSTI.

Mass Decon

So how will you decon the massive numbers of victims a terrorist or WMD incident will generate? This course will answer that question. Offered twice, November 7-8, 2000 and April 24-25, 2001. Locations to be determined (if you would like to host one let us know).

Instructor Info



Ms. Hazmanners

Ms. Hazmanners is back from vacation. Her cousin Vinny from New Jersey has resumed his position with the Soprano family.

Dear Ms. Hazmanners:

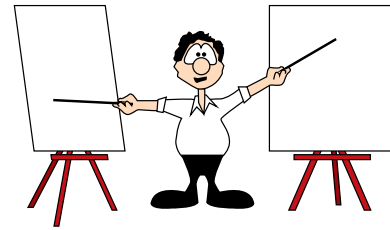
I recently showed up at a hazmat incident and pulled out my NAERG just as the zen masters at CSTI said to do. Much to my great embarrassment, the other people there had the ERG 2000. I had no idea there was a new version and am at a loss as to how to prevent this social gaffe from happening again. Where can I get the new version of the ERG? —*Crushed in Corona*

Gentle Reader—You can take solace in the knowledge that many others have committed a similar faux pas at least once every three years. If you would like a new version of the ERG just contact the nearest OES Regional office. The generous staff there will immediately provide you with this most valuable little book.

Dear Ms. Hazmanners:

I have heard there are grants available to pay for some of those outstanding CSTI classes. I don't want people to know how poor our agency is but I would like to get some of these grants. How can I get on this gravy train without making my peers aware of our poverty? —*Impecunious in Tone*

Gentle Reader—Have no fear. When you talk to the compassionate individuals from the LEPC they will not require you to divulge such painful information. Your neighbors will never know. Contact the hazmat person at the OES Regional office and they will be most discrete about helping you obtain the grants you need.



Audits

We continue to conduct random monthly audits on our "Outreach" classes. Results of the audits continue to show the vast majority of our Course Managers are delivering the courses per the Regulations. Thanks to all outreach instructors who are delivering quality standardized Haz Mat emergency response training per the Regulations. Great job!

Jeff Paullus

Trivia Question

Who was that famous celebrity Outreach Instructor on page 53 of the June issue of *People Magazine*? Answer below.



Answer: Juan Pacheco! A Fire Battalion Chief from New Mexico, recently re-certified as an Outreach Instructor.



New Director

Mr. John Mirolla recently retired after 20+ years at CSTI, most of that as Director. During his tenure, the Institute grew in both size and complexity as it branched into fields never envisioned when it was founded over 25 years ago. We wish John well in this new phase in his career.

By the time you read this the new Director may well be in place. Whoever it is will surely maintain the Institute's commitment to excellence in the Hazardous Materials program. We all look forward to even greater things as we continue to support all of you under new leadership.

CSTI Website

Mike Brady is working on providing the following information on the OES Website:

Frequently Asked Questions

Outreach Admin Forms

CSTI Haz Mat E-Mail List

Outreach Instructor List (*let us know now if you **don't** want to be on it*)

Outreach Class Schedule

CSTI Class Schedule

The Annual Newsletter

At this time it looks like we will put our curricula on the website. We'll provide more information at the Conference. If you have any suggestions please let us know.

New Stuff From CSTI

New Outreach Courses

The standards for the CSTI First Responder Operations and Incident Commander Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Agent (FRO & IC NBC) Courses have been put into the Regulations. If you are interested in teaching these classes, you must be a CSTI Certified Instructor and have taken the CSTI class you wish to teach (e.g., FRO and/or IC NBC class). If you have already taken these classes, send a letter, with a copy of the CSTI Certificate, to Susan Speer-Kocher. She will send you the amended regulation sheet to sign, update your file and send you the course materials. If you have not taken the class yet and want to teach it, look at the enclosed schedule and fill out an application for the FRO and/or IC NBC classes we are offering this year. We are also thinking about adding the FRA and FRO Meth Classes, and the new Mass Decon Class to the Outreach Program. Let us know if you want these classes (if enough want it, we will do it).

New CSTI Courses, 2000-2001

The following new Haz Mat emergency response classes are being developed for delivery this next academic year:

Hospital Decon

Mass Decon

First Responder Bio Haz Mats

Explosives Awareness Tech/Spec

Tech/Spec for Bomb Techs

Meth Cylinders

Haz Mat Meth Specialist

PowerPoint for Trainers

See attached schedule, and if interested in attending, fill out a CSTI application.

Instructor Info

New Database

We are presently moving all of our instructor information to a new database. Under our old database, we only had room for one address and phone number. The new database will have space for both home and work addresses. We also have a blank on the form for future website inclusion of instructor information, so if you would like to participate in that, let us know by completing that portion of the form. We attached a form for you to use to give us updated information for our database. *Please send them in as soon as possible.* Thanks!

New Exam Procedures

Starting January 1, 2001, there will be new procedures for administering our Outreach Exams. Currently we are reviewing all of the "Outreach Exams," and contracting with consultants to improve the quality of the exams. If you have any input, please send it to Jeff Paullus at CSTI.

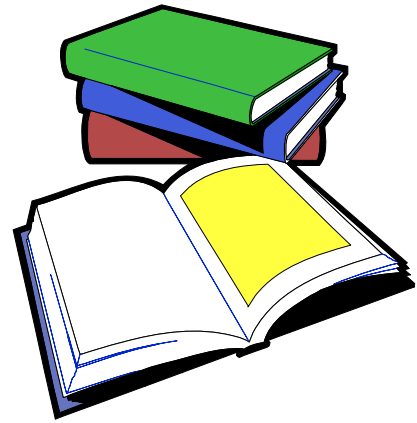
We will explain the new exam procedures in detail at the Conference. Here is the short version: As Course Manager, upon submitting a HM 100, you will get an "A" and "B" version of the course exam, with an answer sheet and an answer key. A computer program will randomly select the exam questions and make up the exams at the start of each year. (You can use the same exam for any other class you do in that calendar year only.) Questions will show a Fed and Cal OSHA cite, so there will be no "Generic" C version.

The total number of questions for an exam will change. Each exam will have a number of questions that correspond to the number of hours required for each course (i.e. FRO Exam is 25 questions, IC Exam 50 questions, a Tech Module is 50 questions, a Refresher Exam will be 25 questions, etc.).

Again, if you have input on updating the exams, don't snivel later, call Jeff now!

Shocking News

For the fifth year in a row we have not increased what we charge for certificate processing. The fees will stay the same for the rest of this year.



Binders Banned

We now use "Fastback" binding for all course material. "Fastback" is a durable glue binding with a cloth spine. "Fastback" books are easy to hold open and the pages do not come loose.

Our binder supplier was unable to provide binders with less than a 10% failure rate. Because of the poor quality and the high price we have stopped using them for most courses.

Four More

Please continue to send in your HM188, Annual Proof of Training forms by December 31st of each year to provide proof that you taught four hours in the past year. If you are certifying a class, we will pull this information off of your HM130 form, but if you are an adjunct instructor for someone else, be sure to file this form with us each year (even if the class isn't certified).

When in doubt, fill it out.

CSTI Hazmat Staff



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Jeff Paullus

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Vance Bennett

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Grant Info

Region I

Clandestine Drug Laboratory Chemical Identification (50 Students), CSTI/SLO:

September 20-24, 1999

October 4-8, 1999

December 13-17, 1999

May 15-19, 2000

Tech/Spec Terrorism (40 Students), Ventura:

January 11-13, 2000

FRO—Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Terrorist Agents (50 Students), Ventura:

January 19, 2000

Tuition: 50 students

Incident Commander—Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Agents (30 Students), Ventura:

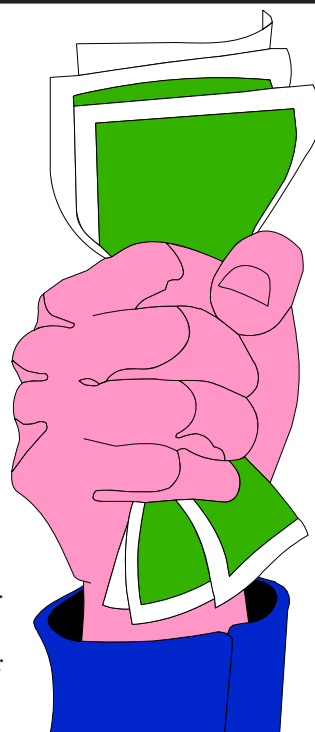
January 20, 2000

Emergency Medical Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction (60 Students), Ventura:

April 18-19, 2000

Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory First Responder (60 Students), Ventura:

June 21, 2000



Region II

CAMEO (24 Students), CSTI:

November 16-18, 1999

Tech/Spec Refresher (30 Students), Salinas:

April 18-20, 2000

Asst. Safety Officer (60 Students), Santa Clara County:

June 5-8, 2000

IC Refresher (30 Students), San Ramon:

June 13-14, 2000

Region III

Tech/Spec Refresher (30 Students)

February 1-3, 2000

FRO Decon (30 Students), Butte:

April 27, 2000

24 Hr. IC (30 Students), Butte:

May 2-4, 2000

Emer. Med. Response (30 Students), Lassen County:

May 8-9, 2000

Emer. Med. Response (30 Students), Tehama County:

May 11-12, 2000

Region IV

Cargo Tank Safety (20 Students), CSTI/SLO:

October 4-8, 1999

Assistant Safety Officer (30 Students)

January 24-27, 2000

Clandestine Drug Laboratory Waste Operations (20 Students), CSTI/SLO:

February 28 - March 3, 2000

Rail Car Safety (20 Students), CSTI/SLO:

May 15-19, 2000

Region V

Technician (20 Students) CSTI:

1A September 13-17, 1999

1B September 27 - October 1, 1999

1C October 25-29, 1999

1D November 8-12, 1999

Region VI

Assistant Safety Officer (30 Students)

September 20-23, 1999

Specialist (8 Students), CSTI/SLO:

December 6-10, 1999

December 13-17, 1999

Specialist (35 Students)

March 27-31, 2000

April 3-7, 2000

Contacts

Region I

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Region II

Len Miller 510-286-0895

Region III

Nellie Barber 916-224-4113

Region IV

Marsha Esparza 916-262-1725

Region V

Dennis Rohde 559-498-1023

Region VI

Jim Hunt 619-525-4289

Update News

FRO Update

You've heard rumors about it, you've asked for it, you've lost sleep worrying about. Finally, it's about to begin. The long awaited FRO Update.

That's right, we plan to revise the First Responder Operations curriculum. We began this project by soliciting input from the busiest FRO instructors. The one message we heard from all of them was—no major changes. People are pleased with the program and have a lot invested in it (lesson plans, exercises, class activities and custom curriculum). Please be assured that the changes we have in mind will not cause you to throw out everything you've done to make the program work for you.

So just what do we have in mind? Our plans are:

- Replace the present Instructor Guide with a package that includes a Plan of Instruction, PowerPoint® slides, activities/exercises that people have found useful, digital images for use in presentations then put all of the above on a CD-ROM for your use.

- Revise the Student Notebook to add more reference material and make that material more accessible to class participants.

- Add options for the Refresher Course to include subject specific modules that cover new material but include the basic FRO competencies.

- Revise the exams and eliminate the 100 questions true/false refresher exam.

Before we get too deep into this project we would like to get your input. We would also like to get copies of exercises, activities, games, etc. that you have found useful. If you have any digital images please send those in as well. Anything you have is welcome!

If you would like to put in your 2¢ worth please give me a call. My email address is vance_bennett@oes.ca.gov and our fax number is 805-549-3555.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Review of Haz Mat Technician/Specialist curriculum.

CSTI will review and update the curriculum this fiscal year. As we promised we will not let the curriculum go stale sitting on a shelf. We need your help. As experienced emergency responders and instructors your input is priceless.

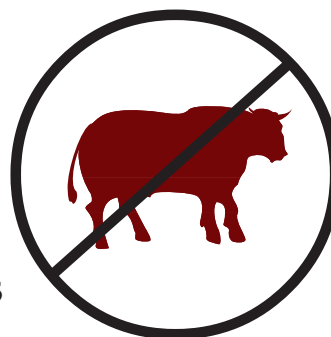
Some of the areas we are considering;

- Is the amount of chemistry excessive, too brief or off target? How can we offer more hands-on experience with monitoring equipment? Rearrange the blocks of instruction to offer hands-on in every week? Update the minimum equipment requirements to better reflect current practices and new tools that are available. Update the program to align with changes in NFPA standards.

No section of the program is above review.

Please send any comments or suggestions to me via US mail or e-mail me at paul_deis@oes.ca.gov

Haz Mat Info



Haz Mat Urban Legends

Decon Solutions

As you go through your decon supplies and wonder why you have a bunch of decon solutions that you never use did you ever stop to think about just who dreamed up the concept of “decon solutions” to begin with? We checked with the EPA and Dave Xander of their training center in Cincinnati, OH provided some historical perspective:

“The information that we supply to our students can be found in the latest edition of the U.S. EPA Standard Operating Safety Guides (SOSGs). This is where much of the information concerning decon solutions originally came from. I looked back through some earlier editions and found that the decon solutions most commonly described were included in the 1981 and 1982 versions. A new edition came out in 1984 and it had no reference to decon solutions other than that they should not be used without consulting a chemist. The Mike Hildebrand article on decontamination appeared in “Fire Command” in January and February of 1985 and was the first widespread publication of the decon solutions for the fire service. Mike referenced the earlier versions of the SOSGs in his article, which was probably written before the 1984 SOSGs were distributed.” (Note: you can buy SOSGs from the Government Printing Office.)

Contact Lenses

We’ve all heard it, “You can’t wear contact lenses with respirators and SCBAs!”. Once upon a time, OSHA did prohibit that. Does that policy still apply? The following is from an OSHA interpretation on this issue dated 04/26/94:

“The prohibition against the use of contact lenses with respirators is found in paragraph (e)(5)(ii) of the Respiratory Protection standard. On February 8, 1988, OSHA issued a memo addressing this issue. The memo summarizes the results of an OSHA-funded research project assessing the hazards associated with the wearing of contact lenses with full-facepiece respirators by firefighters.

Based on this and other research, OSHA adopted the policy that violations of paragraph (e)(5)(ii) involving the use of rigid gas permeable or soft (hydrophilic) contact lenses with any type of respirator shall be characterized as de minimis. A violation is characterized as de minimis if it has no direct or immediate relationship to employee safety or health. Citations are not issued for de minimis violations, and there is no monetary penalty or requirement for abatement.” (Note: You can find this and other interpretations at www.osha.gov.)

They go on with much more verbiage— bottom line: gas permeable and soft lenses are OK.